

**December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 3:00 PM EST**

Indiana Government Center- South, Conference Rm. 5  
402 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

## Attendance

### Board Members Present:

All Terrain Vehicle Users- Neil McCammack  
Bicyclists: Nancy Tibbett  
Environmental Groups- Kevin Hardie  
Equestrians- Yvette Rollins  
Four Wheel Drive Users- Ryan Sweany  
Hikers- Tim Calahan  
Mountain Bikers- Jeff Fetterer  
Off-Road Motorcyclists- Tom Hartman  
Parks & Recreation Agencies- Melody Jones  
Pedestrians- Pat Martin  
Trail Support Groups- Karen Bohn (proxy)  
Snowmobilers- Len Neisler  
Users with Disabilities- David Meihls  
Water Trail Users- Dan Plath

### DNR Staff:

Jewell Baxter- Customer Service  
Dale Brier- Outdoor Recreation  
Amy Marisavljevic- Outdoor Recreation  
Scott Salmon – Fish and Wildlife

### Members Not Present:

Higher Education/Health- John McNichols

### Guests:

Charles Andrew- Knobstone Trail Hiking Association  
Roy F. Garrett- Stoney Lonesome MC  
Kären Haley- Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Inc.  
Jay Jackson- ABATE of Indiana  
Frank Merritt- Hoosier Mountain Bike Association  
Joe Rozsahegyi- American Canoe Association  
Mario Vian- Hoosiers Rails to Trails Council, Inc.

## Meeting Minutes

### Welcome

Chair Yvette Rollins called the meeting to order at 3:17 PM. Rollins welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Dan Plath again for hosting the September meeting.

### Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves. Angie Pool gave her proxy to Karen Bohn.

### Approval of the Agenda

Rollins asked if there were any changes to the agenda. No changes. Rollins made a motion to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

### Review and Approval of September 4, 2014 Minutes

Rollins asked if there were any comments or amendments to the September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 minutes. No comments. Pat Martin made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Dan Plath seconded. Motion carried.

## **DNR Report**

Amy Marisavljevic announced that Greg Beilfuss, Recreation Planner, continues to work on the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) including the Trails Plan Update chapter. It should be published by fall 2015 with the new Visionary Trail Map inside. The Division of Outdoor Recreation received approval to hire their vacant grant coordinator position. Marisavljevic said they hope to welcome a new staff member by spring.

**RTP Grants Update** –Marisavljevic stated that all, but one RTP grant projects recommended by the TAB have been federally approved. The one project is in process of gaining approval while the approved projects are now in the state signature process.

## **Old Business**

**Ford Hoosier Outdoor Experience** -Marisavljevic reported that the 2014 Ford Hoosier Outdoor Experience was again a success with about 20,000 visitors this year. She thanks all those who came and/or volunteered. Ryan Sweany reported the 4 wheel drive activity had over 1700 participants. Neil McCammack stated the ATV activity had over 3400 participants and Roy Garrett added that 702 kids rode on the tiny tots motorcycles. Rollins asked for pictures of the event for media postings. Dale Brier reported about 3000 paddlers went out on the lake and replied that pictures can be found on the DNR Facebook page.

**Future Meetings** –Marisavljevic announced that Angie Pool will host the September 2015 TAB meeting at the Cardinal Greenway in Muncie. Martin offered to host the March meeting in Terre Haute. He will check on visiting Indiana State University's new Track and Field facility. Rollins suggested possibly visiting Southwestway Park or Interlake State Recreation Area (SRA). Plath mentioned he would check into hosting the June meeting at Marquette Park or somewhere in the Kankakee area. The TAB decided to hold the December meeting in Indianapolis again. Kevin Hardie suggested maybe checking with an institution or facility associated with the White River State Park. Marisavljevic mentioned that Ft. Harrison or other DNR properties are also options for meeting locations.

**Higher Education Partners-** Marisavljevic followed up on the discussion from last meeting in regards to higher education trail partners. She passed out a list of those contacts and explained that the list was short due to the lack of feedback. If anyone had another contact to add to the list, they should contact Marisavljevic.

## **New Business**

**Board Membership Terms & Nominations** - Marisavljevic stated that the current Bicyclists, Higher Education/Health, Parks & Recreation Agencies, Water Trail Users and Off-Road Motorcyclists representative terms will expire on February 28, 2015. Marisavljevic stated that nominations for the five positions will be taken from now until January 2, 2015. Further information about nominations and the appointment process can be found on the DNR TAB website. Any member interested in serving again should submit a nomination. Marisavljevic encouraged members to pass along this information and nominate anyone they believe would be interested in serving. Plath took this time to announce he will not re-apply and will nominate Joe Rozsahegyi for Water Trail Users.

Marisavljevic stated that a DNR media release regarding TAB nominations went out on November 17, 2014. Marisavljevic stated they received a letter from Marilyn Emma Thompson of Carbon, Indiana, in response to call for nominations. The Thompsons suggested having an adjacent property owner position on the TAB. Marisavljevic also received a call inquiring about a trail running position on the board. Marisavljevic explained that the TAB had addressed this concern a few years prior deciding that this user group fits under existing positions. The TAB discussed these concerns, but ultimately decided the TAB did not need any additional positions on the board at this time. Marisavljevic stated that the current make-up of the TAB meets all federal requirements allowing Indiana to continue to receive RTP funding. Rollins added that other states have different criteria and processes for administering RTP. She stated the TAB can make recommendations if they feel it's necessary.

**Indianapolis Cultural Trail Presentation** - Marisavljevic introduced Kären Haley, the Executive Director of the Indianapolis Cultural Trail Inc., to the TAB. Haley explained the vision and history of the Indianapolis Cultural Trail: A Legacy of Gene and Marilyn Glick. She stated the total cost for the trail was \$63 million coming from federal and state grants as well as corporate, community, and private contributions. The complete 8 mile trail opened in May 2013 after being started in 2007. Since opening, the Cultural Trail has received positive reviews, including being named one of the top 52 places to go by the New York Times. The trail allows residents and visitors to easily access downtown's attractions. In addition to the transportation and recreational opportunities it has provided, Haley stated it has also had quite an economic impact. Haley reported that the Pacers Bikeshare program launched this year and has exceeded expectations. The bikeshare and the Cultural Trail are open 365 days a year. In the winter, snow is cleared from the trail. Haley stated that maintenance of the trail is a large part of the operating budget. Haley is responsible for the everyday operation of the trail which also includes some programming. Haley fielded a number of questions before stating the upcoming goal for the trail is to maximize its efficiency and impact in the community. Additional information can be obtained at <http://indyculturaltrail.org> and questions can be directed to [khaley@indyculturaltrail.org](mailto:khaley@indyculturaltrail.org).

**Kankakee River NPS Water Trail Designation** - Plath shared his e-mail with the TAB and further explained the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association (NWIPA) goal to designate the Kankakee River as National Water Trail with the National Park Service (NPS). If designated, the 133 mile trail would be the first designation for both Indiana and Illinois. Similar to a National Recreation Trail, the designation would provide more opportunities for economic development, public access, public education, environmental stewardship, and recreation in the Kankakee River Basin area. The NWIPA and partners in Illinois are currently putting together an application to submit in January and are looking for letters of support to the NPS from affiliated agencies and groups, such as the Indiana DNR. Plath answered questions from the TAB regarding funding and design. Plath stated that a designation may make them eligible for funding sources or strengthen applications for funding. This funding could make the goal of constructing accessible boat launches and other projects more feasible. After some discussion, Kevin Hardie made a motion that the TAB recommend that Director Clark write a letter of support and Jones seconded. Motion passed. Marisavljevic will work with Rollins to submit a letter to DNR

Director Clark. Joe Rozsahegyi commented that he and the paddling community in Indiana hope to have more Indiana water trails designated as National Water Trails in the future.

**Interim Study Committee & Recreational Trails** – Marisavljevic reported that the Interim Study Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources met on September 17, 2014 in Terre Haute and they discussed several issues regarding trails. The first was Recreational Trail policy, in which a vote passed 11- 0 to have the DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation develop a statewide policy. The policy would address a number of trail issues including fencing, ownership, signage, and much more. Marisavljevic also said the committee discussed collecting 10% of the states sales tax of National Trails Day to fund the newly created trail maintenance fund. The committee voted 7-4, but failed to pass the funding recommendation by one vote. Finally, the committee discussed a \$25 bike tax, but decided not to vote on the measure. Marisavljevic said that there is a possibility a bill will be introduced into legislation this session on trail policy. It may include funding as well. If the DNR should be asked to create such a policy this year, they would gather input from stakeholders, including TAB members, to create the policy. Jones asked if this would be in Indiana Code. Brier replied no, it would mostly likely be in administrative code. The Greenway Foundation is still focusing on funding for the trail maintenance fund.

## **User Group Reports**

**All-Terrain Vehicle Users** - Neil McCammack announced that a Chili Cook Off will be held at Redbird SRA on New Years Day. He added that his group worked on trails maintenance at Redbird and hope to add another lower skill level ATV trail. McCammack stated that Trail Riders of America have already started the American Trail Ride Race planning for next year.

**Bicyclists** - Nancy Tibbett announced the annual bike summit will be March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in Indianapolis. Tibbett also said that Bicycle Indiana continues to develop an advocate/layman guide for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure design. She reported that Central Indiana Bicycle Association held the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Hilly Hundred in October and it was a success.

**Environmental Groups** - Hardie stated that a number of environmental groups have expressed interest in a proposal for a greenway as an alternative to the Mounds Reservoir in Anderson. Hardie announced that there will be presentation on this proposal in January in the Indianapolis area, more details to follow.

**Equestrians** - Rollins reported that Indiana Trail Riders Association trails at O'Bannon Woods State Park were enhanced the week of Thanksgiving. Trail work, such as re-graveling sites in the campground and removing of "Widow Maker" trees, was also done at Brown County State Park. Additionally, they worked on improving drainage on one trail and cleaned up the road in preparation for the hunters. There was a total of 86 miles of trail maintenance. Sweany inquired how the group and others clear the trails. A discussion followed on the use of chainsaws and volunteer guidelines on DNR property. Brier will follow up with the TAB on official DNR property policy on volunteer trail work.

**Four-Wheel-Drive Users** – Ryan Sweany announced their Toys for Tots event at Redbird SRA will be Saturday December 6, 2014. There will be normal gates fees and lunch will be served at Redbird Station. All are welcome. Toy for Tots events have been held in the past at Interlake SRA, Haspin Acres, and the Badlands.

**Hikers**- Tim Calahan had no report, but noted that timber harvesting continues to be an issue.

**Mountain Bikers** – Jeff Fetterer reported that the Brown County Epic was held in October, attracted over 500 participants, and raised over \$20,000 for trail building. The new Bobcat Bowl Trail was unveiled at the Epic. Fetterer stated that construction on a trail at Yellowwood State Forest will begin this winter. Finally, Fetterer said that Alex Stewart and Paul Arlinghous recently visited O'Bannon Woods and are developing a plan for the RTP grant trails there.

**Off-Road Motorcyclists** - Tom Hartman stated construction was completed on two buildings at Interlake SRA. The buildings were constructed with RTP funds, but are not being used due to staffing difficulties. Hartman said that this is unfortunate since this prevents Interlake from charging admission and sustaining itself. Brier commented that funding is not the issue for these positions; the state strategic hiring committee has denied the position request. Hartman announced this will be his last meeting as he will not re-apply for his position and instead enjoy traveling in retirement. He thanked all the TAB members for their enthusiasm and willingness to work together to further trails in Indiana.

**Parks and Recreation Agencies** - Jones stated she has no report from the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association (IPRA). She reported that one and 1/4 mile of the Monon Trail has recently been paved in Westfield. Phase 6 of the Monon will go to letting in February and Phase 7, 191<sup>st</sup> to 216<sup>th</sup> Street, will go in 2016. It should be completed to Sheridan by 2017. The Midland Trace Trail will be completed next year as well, connecting Westfield to Noblesville. Additionally, Grand Park features 10 miles of paved trail.

**Pedestrians** - Martin announced that Griffin Bike Park is under construction in Vigo County. The park, named after a Terre Haute fallen soldier, will be located in Fowler Park and contain 16 miles of advanced mountain bike trails on 300 acres. The park has a 10 year master plan which seeks to make it a national destination. So far they have received 10 national endorsements. They hope to have the first section of the park completed by spring 2015. Martin reported that Terre Haute hosted the NCAA Cross Country Championship at LaVern Gibson Championship Cross Country Course in November. The trail saw 1,200 visitors. A trailhead facility on a five mile trail at the 2600 acre Wabashiki Fish & Wildlife Area has begun. Indiana State University recently completed a new Track & Field facility, which will open in spring of 2015. A mile trail will lead to the facility. Martin updated the TAB on Terre Haute's "Turn to the River" plan which includes a pedestrian promenade from 3<sup>RD</sup> & Wabash Ave and six mile river walk trail along the river, between Interstate 63 to interstate 70. Martin said they will be starting the first mile of trail in January 2015. Also in 2015, construction will begin on the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the trail coming down interstate 70. National Endowment for the Arts grants money is being used to fund the trails project.

**Snowmobilers** - Len Neisler said that he had nothing new to report; just waiting on the snow that fell in November is now gone.

**Trails Support Groups** - Karen Bohn (proxy) said that a portion of the Farm Heritage Trail will be constructed in Whitestown this spring. Also the Speedway Trail opened a mile of trail along 16<sup>th</sup> street and the Covered Bridge Gateway Trail in Parke County opened a mile of trail as well. Bohn said that the Greenway Foundation is working hard to get funding for trail maintenance and liked the suggestion of 10% of total sales tax collected on National Trails Day be used for funding.

**Users with Disabilities** - David Meihls said he had nothing to report.

**Water Trail Users** - Plath had to leave the meeting early and gave his proxy to Joe Rozsahegyi. Rozsahegyi reported that NWIPA recently pursued a Bicentennial Nature Trust Grant for the Little Calumet River for \$1 million. It will help provide public access sites and potentially an accessible launch.

### **Announcements**

Greenways Foundation Annual Luncheon- February 24, 2015, Indianapolis, IN

Indiana Bike Summit- March 19-20, Indianapolis, IN

American Trails International Symposium- May 17-20, 2015, Portland, OR

Indiana and National Trails Day- June 6, 2015.

The Ford Hoosier Outdoor Experience- September 19-20, 2015

### **2015 Meeting Dates**

March 5, 2015- Terre Haute, IN

June 25, 2015- TBD

September 3, 2015- Cardinal Greenway in Muncie, IN

December 3, 2015- Indianapolis, IN

**Adjournment** - Rollins called for a motion for adjournment. Fetterer made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jones seconded. Motion carried. Adjournment was at 5:42 PM.